

and will act according to their judgment, and their actions are backed by the entire organization. We hope, and so does the organization, that this matter will be quickly and justly rectified. There are 2,000 miners at Springfield, Greenview and Petersburg out on prices. The union in this city has only been organized two weeks.

#### STEVENSON'S COMPANY DOES NOT BELIEVE IN UNIONS.

The following is a copy of what the *Pantagraph* said October 8th, 1887:

From present indications, the coal miners' strike is on. But a few of the men started to work yesterday morning and, when they learned the situation, they did not go into the mine. All the miners are now out, and it looks very much as though they intend to stay out until their point is conceded. There seems to be no ill feeling on either side. The company do not endorse such unions as the National Federation of Miners, and do not care to have men in their employ who belong to them. The election of Joseph Smith and G. and J. Krier as officers in the above mentioned union the company thinks is a sufficient cause for their discharge, and on Thursday, Mr. Radford gave these men notice to quit work or withdraw from the union. They refused to withdraw from the union and appealed their cause to their fellow workmen. Yesterday's developments proved that nearly, if not quite all, the miners sustained the position of the three discharged men.

Both sides seem to be anxious for an amicable adjustment of the disputed point. The committee appointed Thursday to lay the matter before the company called on Mr. Radford for his answer yesterday at 10 o'clock, but he was not prepared to give a definite reply as to what the company would do. There was a meeting of the miners yesterday afternoon at Knights of Labor hall to hear the report of the committee appointed to consult with the company. There seemed to be no bad blood in the meeting, but all was peaceful and orderly, though very enthusiastic. It was to the effect that the committee had seen Mr. Radford and placed the matter before him, and that Mr. Radford had refused to grant their claim. Mr. Radford hoped the miners would return to work, all of them, including the men discharged, but that they would sever their connection with the union.

There were about two hundred and fifty or three hundred miners in attendance at the meeting. When the question came up as to whether they should return to the mine this morning to resume their work, they voted almost unanimously in the negative. A resolution was passed, to the effect that all hands should go to the mine to-day and remove their tools, and a committee was appointed to notify the company of this action. The meeting adjourned without any indication whatever that the miners were angry. They complain of no grievance on the part of the company, but only insist that the company has no right to enjoin them from being members of labor unions. They refuse to submit to this as a precedent, and, as a result, there are about three hundred men out of employment. This is very much to be regretted, and especially so at this season of the year, and it must entail much suffering on the families of the miners if it is continued into a protracted strike.

On the other hand the coal company do not feel disposed to allow any union men among their employes, for the reason that where there are unions there is constant trouble between the companies and their men. They say that so far relations with their men have been pleasant and amicable and they want them to continue so. They have no objection to the discharged men personally. All of them have been with us for years and all are good men, but they have violated a rule of the company in joining the union and so they were discharged. Just at this time a suspension of operations at the shaft is very annoying, productive of great loss to the company, no less than to the miners.

Mr. Lyman Graham, secretary of the company, late last night said that there was no feeling whatever against the company. It was a square business difference. There is no trouble as to compensation. The company don't believe that the union business is beneficial either to the company or its miners, and they don't want to employ men who are in the union. Under the union system there is continual annoyance—strikes or threats of strikes every week or two, and so on.

#### TRADES UNIONS DENOUNCE STEVENSON'S COMPANY.

The following is a copy of what the *Pantagraph* said October 11, 1887:

There was a regular union meeting of the thirteen trades unions of the city held last evening at the hall of the Knights of Labor. During the meeting the present strike of the coal miners of the McLean County Coal Company was considered and discussed, and a committee was appointed to put in form the expression of the united union in regard to the matter. The committee reported a preamble and resolution which was unanimously adopted. The preamble quotes from the United States constitution the clause that "all men are created free and equal," etc., and are entitled to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as "inalienable rights." The Trades Union resolution denounces the action of the coal company as "contrary to the spirit of the United States constitution and tyrannical," and extends sympathy to the miners who are thrown out of employment by the company's action.

The following is a copy of what the *Pantagraph* said October 12, 1887:

The situation of affairs with the McLean County Coal Company remains practically unchanged. An officer of the company said that many of the men wanted to go to work but dare not. Said he, "We do not expect the men to resume work. We will wait a reasonable time and give them the opportunity to go back just as they came out, and if they do not accept the opportunity we will proceed to make other and permanent arrangements." It was reported that many of the miners were leaving the city, but the company did not seem to take much stock in that report.

#### NON-UNIONISTS TO BE BROUGHT IN.

The following is a copy of what the *Pantagraph* said October 15, 1887:

At the office of the McLean County Coal Company yesterday all was profoundly peaceful. The secretary proffered chatting about the frost and about the performances of certain steeds to talking about the strike at the mine. He dexterously avoided all reportorial passes directed toward the probable action of the company. He admitted that the company was determined to "make other permanent arrangements if the miners, after a reasonable time for deliberation, did not accept the opportunity to return to work, but would not further expand in that direction." When questioned regarding the make up of the company's mining force he said: "We have an industrious, reliable and excellent force—a good class of men. Most of them have worked for us for many years. They include many nationalities. We have Swedes, they are largely in the majority—Americans 60, the white and colored, Scotchmen, Englishmen, Welsh-

men, Irishmen, Italians, Bohemians, Frenchmen, Poles, Swiss, Germans and the Lord only knows what else."

The reporter, later on in pursuing his investigations, was informed by several that the coal company intend putting in a force of miners just as soon as they conclude that the striking men are determined to stay out, and that this action will probably be taken next Monday if the miners are still out on that day. The coal company would not deny or verify this statement. They "had nothing further to say."

Democrats in West Virginia have a great deal to say about Republican schemes to displace white miners with colored men. It will be seen by the following that colored men were imported by Mr. Stevenson's company to take the place of white union men:

The following is a copy of what the *Pantagraph* said October 20, 1887:

#### THE OCCURRENCE OF YESTERDAY.

Affairs were rather more quiet and less warlike about the coal shaft yesterday. An arrest early in the morning had a wholesome effect on the would be agitators. At half-past six yesterday morning Marshal Bentley and ten officers went to the shaft. About ten miners, including some colored men, went to work and some fifty or sixty strikers and others stood around. When Mr. M. T. Scott came on the scene, Anton Benecovia, a Polish miner, set up a series of groans and hoots and Marshal Bentley started for him. He ran into a neighboring saloon where the marshal grabbed him and took him to the city hall. The miners begged hard for his release before he was taken up to town, but to no avail, and they finally dispersed with little assistance. About noon a committee of miners put up \$7 for his appearance and he was liberated. In the afternoon Justice Pearson fined him \$7.

Five or six colored men came out at noon to hunt holes for themselves and families. Ten of these colored miners arrived yesterday and a contract was made with the Globe Restaurant to give them breakfast. When the proprietor learned that they were imported to take the place of strikers he refused to feed them. At 5:10 last evening five white miners came out of the shaft. There was no disposition on the part of anybody to arrest them. They got into a street car with Mr. Lyman Graham and came up town. A few citizens were at the shaft expecting to see what they termed "fun," but they were grievously disappointed. Hardly any miners were about and only two or three policemen.

#### IMPORTING NON-UNIONISTS.

The coal company expect a large contingent of men next Saturday, and by next Monday will probably be working forty men or more. The men are all experienced miners, and the company says they are all well recommended as reliable men. As the mine was running at full capacity of about 300 men, of course, for every new man put in, one of the old force must go out. However, many of the unmarried men have already left the town to remain. The new men have been promised steady work if they prove to be efficient, and ample protection. Mr. Scott was to go to California Tuesday, but did not go. He said to a reporter yesterday that, having promised the men protection, he was going to see, personally, that they were protected, and that he would not leave the city until this protection was manifestly assured.

The following is a copy of what the *Pantagraph* said October 14th, 1887:

The coal miners held a meeting at Breckersbellers' Hall last night. There were probably two hundred present and the meeting was chiefly for the purpose of listening to speeches. Several short speeches were made and the general sentiment was in favor of staying out of the mine. Said one of the men to a *Pantagraph* reporter: "Every man would like to go to work if granted his own privilege. That privilege is the right to be a free man and belong to any union. We could find plenty of other grievances if we chose." A recess was taken to allow the men to sign a petition, asking the governor of Missouri to release a striker who is in the penitentiary for 25 years because of some assault upon a "scab" two years ago, during the Wabash strike. The men very generally signed it, while all had a chance to read handbills telling of two tailor shops that were not employing union tailors.

The men last night decided not to appoint any committee to wait on the coal company. They preferred to wait for the company to call on them. The next meeting will be called when Mr. McLaughlin, president of the state federation, can be present. He has been asked to come, but the date has not been settled.

The following is a copy of what the *Pantagraph* said October 15, 1887:

There is no change in the coal miners' strike in this city. Matters remain the same as they have been all over the state, but there is a possibility of a change to-day. Miners of the Belleville district, by their delegates, meet in East St. Louis. If they decide that the men shall stay out then all the men of the Braidwood district also will probably leave the mines. If on the other hand they decide that the men shall go to work on compromises all will be serene. Mayor McLaughlin, of Braidwood, is president of the state federation. He has been over the state organizing unions, and now there is a total of 15,000 men in roll. He is expected in this city in a few days.

In Braidwood 95 cents is paid, as is also in this city. In Lincoln the men want 67 cents and in Springfield 67. Some of the Springfield mines could afford to pay this, but others owing to the existing low contracts could not. All of the Springfield mines, however, are willing to pay 60 cents. Belleville is willing to pay 56 1/2 cents. Events will probably take a change by Monday. Coal advanced 25 cents per ton in Chicago on Thursday. The coal supply in this city continues limited, but is enough for ordinary demands.

#### NON-UNIONISTS STARTED TO WORK.

The following is a copy of what the *Pantagraph* says, October 17, 1887:

The *Pantagraph* stated the other day that it was likely that, unless the striking miners of the McLean county coal company of this city returned to work before Monday, today, other and permanent arrangements would be made by the company. A *Pantagraph* reporter yesterday made diligent inquiry of the several officers of the company as to the situation and prospects, but could obtain from them nothing further than that they had practically abandoned the idea that the men would resume work. They took it for granted that the miners meant what they said at their most recent meetings. As to putting other men in the mine to-day they would not say a word.

It was, however, learned from another source that work will be resumed in the shaft this morning. It was learned from twelve to twenty miners from other shafts arrived in the city on Saturday, and that they are fully prepared to go into the mine this morning, if they are not already in. This is a fact vouched for by most reliable people. It is also true that other miners are engaged to come and it is believed that from 40 to 50 new men will be at work before the end of the week. We do not

understand that the company has any wish to bar out its old employes but on the contrary infer that they will be put to work should they apply for work before their places are filled.

The miners seem to show no sign of weakening. On Saturday several said that they meant business, and that they would stay out all winter rather than to submit to that which they considered tyrannical and oppressive. It is a question of principle, they say. A SUGGESTION TO MR. STEVENSON AND OTHER DIRECTORS.

The *Bloomington Journal* (German) said: The coal miners held a meeting on Thursday evening and decided not to resume work until the coal company gave them the right as free-men, to belong to their respective labor organizations. This is right. The passage of this resolution indicates their manhood, and shows that the battle is half won. The McLean County Coal Company threatens to put in new men on Monday morning. We believe this is easily said, but hard to do, because not one man in twenty-five will or wants to be a coal miner. The work is very unhealthy, and the pay for such hazardous work is very poor. To have to be a coal miner is a hard lot for any man. Any one not willing to believe this should go into a coal mine and take an eight day's trial and he would surely not envy a coal miner's job, but gladly concede to him the demands he rightly makes. The directors should take picks and shovels and go down into the mine personally to dig the dusky diamonds for eight days and then think the matter over.

When a group of half dozen of the new miners came out of the shaft last evening quite a number of the old men were on the ground to give them a reception. They followed the imported miners up town, using rather vigorous language and paying their respects in a manner that could not be misunderstood. Every thing was quiet last night and an officer was on duty looking after property, etc. The strikers in reality made no opposition or trouble whatever, beyond the insignificant little episode mentioned. It is expected that more men will arrive to-day or tomorrow.

The following is a copy of what the *Pantagraph* says October 19, 1887:

THE STRIKE OF THE McLEAN COUNTY COAL COMPANY SHAFT RESULTS IN A DISPLAY OF VIOLENCE—MINERS AND MINE OFFICIALS STONED AND BATTERED.

The coal strike took on a new and important phase in an attack on the miners who have been brought to the city to reopen the shaft and upon two officers of the company. The *Pantagraph* yesterday stated that on Monday evening a crowd of jeering men and boys followed the new miners and Messrs. Scott and Graham, of the coal company, who were with them. Messrs. Scott and Graham have since stated that stones were thrown at them and that Mr. Scott had a narrow escape from injury by one of the missiles.

Mayor Thomas said last night that the acts of violence were new to him. His first news of the rock throwing was from the reporter. He said that nothing to warrant a force of police had occurred up to that time, and that he didn't like to take the force away from the city to be stationed for any length of time at the shaft. He had sent an officer there, both when the men went to work in the morning and when they came at night. At the request of the coal company he had appointed two special policemen, giving them stars and all the powers of a regular officer. He would appoint as many as the company ask for. Regarding the two officers whom the coal company designated by name not as having done their duty on Monday evening, he said that they were old and trusted men, and that if they had offended the proper thing to do was to prefer charges against them.

The hackman who hauled the non-union miners has got enough of it. He was thoroughly scared and passed last evening cleaning the vehicle.

#### WHAT SOME MINERS SAY.

Several of the old miners were talked to last night by a reporter, but they had nothing to say regarding the attack on the carriage. Indeed, they were men whom no one would suspect of having anything to do with so damaging and disgraceful an act. They did not know who had participated in the disturbance, and several of them deprecated the act and expressed regret and chagrin over its occurrence. It is certain that the great mass of the old miners are opposed to such methods.

#### CONCLUSIVE.

These few paragraphs from the *Bloomington Pantagraph* serve to give workmen an idea of the character of the strike in which the miners employed by the company of which Adlai Stevenson is one of the owners (the attorney at that time) and the present president. They show conclusively that Stevenson's men struck for their rights as free men to belong to any union. They also show that Mr. Stevenson's company crushed the life out of organized labor at their mines. To this day there is no union there.

There is nothing like Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil to quickly cure a cold or relieve hoarseness. Written by Mrs. M. J. Fellows, Burr Oak, St. Joseph Co., Mich.

NO one else furnished one penny in aid of the pretended colonization scheme except Senator C. J. Faulkner.

—D. McD. Lindsey.

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Union District Republican Club—Every Wednesday evening.

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Tariff Champions—Every Monday evening.

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